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Media Information

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FAST FACTS ABOUT ETHANOL

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Energy Balance

- While E85 gets 20 to 25 percent fewer miles per gallon compared to gasoline, it is less expensive than gasoline in most parts of the country and has 96 octane compared with 87 octane for regular unleaded gasoline. Premium gasoline has less octane than E85 and sells at a higher price. (Clean Cities)
- Ethanol does not require more energy to produce than it delivers as a fuel. The “net energy balance” of making fuel ethanol from corn yields about one-third more energy for automotive fuel than is used to grow the grain. (Argonne National Laboratory)
- Next generation cellulosic ethanol produced from switch grass generates 540 percent more energy than consumed in production. (USDA)
- Coskata’s cellulosic ethanol process generates up to 7.7 times as much energy as what is used to make the fuel compared to conventional gasoline. (Argonne National Laboratory)

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG)

- Corn ethanol reduces GHG by 18-29 percent while cellulosic ethanol yields 85-86 percent reduction per gallon. (Argonne National Laboratory)
- Average GHG from cellulosic ethanol derived from switch grass are 94 percent lower than estimated GHG from gasoline. (USDA; University of Nebraska)
- The use of 6.5 billion gallons of ethanol in the United States during 2007 resulted in the reduction of GHG by approximately 10 million tons. E85 alone contributes to a 20 percent reduction in ozone-forming pollution and a 30 percent reduction in GHG. (Argonne National Laboratory)



Reducing Oil Dependence

- In 2007, the production and use of ethanol in the U.S. reduced oil imports by 228 million barrels, saving \$16.5 billion from being sent to foreign countries. (Renewable Fuels Association; LECG, LLC)
- By 2030, enough biomass could be produced using existing farmland to reduce oil consumption by 30 percent. (DOE; USDA)

Food vs. Fuel

- The USDA says farmers intend to plant 86 million corn acres this year, down 8 percent from 2007, but still the second-most since 1949. If the average trend yield of 155.5 bushels per acre is realized, corn producers would be on track to produce approximately 12.3 billion bushels in 2008 – the second-highest production ever. The USDA also says that many previous corn acres are being planted in soybean, whose crop is pegged at the third-highest acreage in history. (USDA; National Corn Growers Association)
- Corn prices have minimal impact on consumer food prices. For every dollar an American consumer spends on food, only 19 cents goes towards raw materials. The balance — 81 cents — goes to labor, fuels, transportation, packaging and other non-farm costs. (Informa Economics)
- The annual increase in the food consumer price index has averaged 2.96 percent since 1985, with food price inflation peaking at 5.84 percent in 1989 and falling to 1.2 percent in 1992. By comparison, the annualized growth rate during the first three-quarters of 2007 was 3.40 percent. (Informa Economics)
- Increased world demand for food contributes to a rise in U.S. food prices. Of the world's 34 most food-insecure countries, 22 had average annual growth rates ranging from 5 to 16 percent between 2004 and 2006. (International Food Policy Research Institute)
- Ethanol production yields co-products that contribute to our food supply, including distiller's grain, a high-protein animal feed. One bushel of corn produces 18 pounds (2.72 gallons) of ethanol and approximately 17 pounds of distiller's grains in various forms. (Iowa Department of Agriculture)
- Corn yields double every generation through technology, so farmers are getting better at growing more on less land.



Coskata/Cellulosic

- Coskata will begin producing cellulosic ethanol from a pilot plant in late 2008, and from a full-scale plant capable of 50 million to 100 million gallons annually coming on-line in 2011. (Coscata)
- Coskata's process can convert each ton of biomass into more than 100 gallons of low-cost ethanol. (Coscata)
- In the U.S. alone, there is more than 1 billion tons of biomass that can be converted into fuel annually. (USDA)

Infrastructure

- There are more than 1,520 E85 ethanol fueling stations in the U.S. (National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition)
- Working with government, fuel providers and fuel retailers, GM has helped usher in more than 300 E85 fueling pumps at stations in 15 states and the District of Columbia since 2005. (GM)

Public Support

- A 2007 Harris Interactive poll shows that 88 percent of U.S. adults agree the nation should pursue the development of homegrown, renewable energy sources such as ethanol. More than half of adults, or 54 percent, strongly support such development of domestic alternative energy sources. (Clean Fuels Development Coalition)
- Seventy-four percent of Americans want to see increased use of renewable fuels. Furthermore, 87 percent believe active support of the federal government should go toward developing the renewable fuel industry while 77 percent support congressional action to encourage oil refiners to blend more ethanol into their products. (Renewable Fuels Association)

Water Use

- Nearly nine out of 10 acres of corn require no water other than rain. In 2006, 87 percent of corn cropland in the U.S. was non-irrigated. (National Corn Growers Association)
- The majority of the water used in ethanol production is recycled and reused at the facility or is included in one of the plant's co-products such as distillers wet grains, which are fed to beef and dairy cows. (National Corn Growers Association)



Ethanolomics

- The U.S. ethanol industry generated \$2.7 billion in tax revenues in 2006, returning more than half of the federal investment back into the U.S. economy. (National Corn Growers Association)
- According to a U.S. General Accounting Office study in 2000, tax incentives for the petroleum industry have ranged from \$134 billion to \$149 billion since 1968, significantly more than the \$7 billion to \$11 billion that the ethanol industry has received since 1979. (GAO)

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